



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

ENTERED AT P. O. SAVANNAH, GA., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

VOL. I.

MARCH, 1917.

No. 1.

INTRODUCTION

To the First Number of the Georgia Historical Society's
Quarterly Magazine.

BY JOSEPH B. CUMMING.

Georgia Historical Society was created to "collect, preserve and diffuse information in relation to the State of Georgia in all its various departments and American history generally, and to create an historical library for the use of its members and others." Thus, in a commercial, not to say sordid, age, absorbed in money making and material pursuits generally, there exists here in our midst alongside the great stream of business, politics and social riot, more or less frivolous and vulgar, a peaceful, placid little realm, sequestered for the resort of quieter and less material pursuits. As such a resort its scope has been widened by its alliance with The Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences. So since this most suitable marriage, here we have an institution in which flourishes the appropriate association of Record and Illustration.

Georgia Historical Society is a venerable and worthy citizen of the State, whose name it bears. Its claim to be venerable is based on the fact that it has lived among us since the year 1839—a period short, it is true, in the history of States but long in comparison with human life. Its claim of worth it finds in its fairly good performance of two out of the three of its prescribed functions. It has done well in collecting information and in preserving it, with the result that it has become an institution of profound interest to the student of history and of immeasurable value to the writer of it.

But it was created to "collect, preserve and *diffuse*." This last mentioned function it has neglected up to this day of grace. Now in its maturity, if we are to apply to the stages of its life the measure of experience, or in its youth if we may gauge its existence by its hopes and aspirations of the future—now it proposes to take up earnestly and to prosecute vigorously the hitherto neglected branch of its duties—the work of "*diffusion*." To this end its Curators have decided to publish a Magazine, the first number of which is issued with these few words of introduction. Georgia Historical Society here enters on a new phase. Hitherto its work has been collection and preservation. Henceforward it will be collection, preservation and *diffusion*.

Its Magazine, while primarily for the purpose of diffusion, it is believed will aid materially in collection. Its pages will be open to those, who, knowing generally unknown scraps of history and more than willing to communicate them, have hitherto had no ready way of doing so. To such the Magazine will be both a facility and an invitation. It is believed that there are lodged in the memory of living persons, hitherto unpublished, matters of real historic interest, which may be collected in the pages of the Magazine, but which would otherwise pass away, unrecorded, with their silent possessors. Indeed it is a melancholy reflection that probably much of such wealth has already been irrevocably lost for lack of the facility which is now offered for gathering and garnering it. There is past history and history in the making, and the Magazine in its role of collector will deal with both.

The Magazine's usefulness in the work of collection is obvious, but especially is the Magazine the Society's late day response to the duty of "*diffusion*"—not merely diffusion of information, but diffusion of *itself*—the Society's self—its proclamation of the fact that it is not, as in a measure it has come to be regarded, a local affair, a Savannah institution. There has been no design in any quarter to make it such. The impression that such it is is the result of the accident of location and because its members and supporters have been mainly in Savannah. It is hoped that the Magazine will, in this particular, change both the impression itself and the fact which created it. The Society's name is "*Georgia* Historical Society." Its name indicates its sphere. It should, it will henceforward, live up to its mission. It is believed that the publication of the magazine will be a long stride in the Society's quickened career. It will remind those, into whose hands it comes, that there is such a thing

as "Georgia Historical Society"—a fact unknown to thousands, who ought to know it, and known to others—who forget it. Its hope is to win members and incidentally to increase the subscriptions, on which the Society mainly depends for its support and efficiency. But distinctly beyond any financial aim of the enterprise, the mission of the Magazine is to make Georgia Historical Society known to the world—its existence, its aspirations, its facilities and its opportunities, and to extend these facilities and opportunities to "all and singular"—to those who feel that they have a message to deliver about the history of the State or of the Country; and to those who wish to avail themselves of its possessions,—it may be said with modesty, of its treasures.

The Society considers it a fact of most auspicious augury that Mr. William Harden is to be the Editor of the Magazine. For something more than a half century he has been the Society's Librarian, and through that long period he has given it the service of a cultivated mind and the devotion of a loving heart. He is thoroughly familiar with—it may be said steeped in—its history and in the history of the State. If success for the Magazine can be secured by the zealous efforts of an editor of culture, discrimination and taste, its success is assured from the start.

So with this Introduction Georgia Historical Society's Magazine is launched. Let cheers and good wishes attend it as it slides out on the sea of literature, and accompany it in all its voyages. But more than this, let brave efforts be made to assure its prosperity and make certain its mission—efforts by all its members, present and to be, to extend its circulation; and efforts by those, who have messages to deliver concerning its work, to fill its pages with matter of high quality in form and in substance, so that this visitor to the homes of our people, issuing quarterly from the bosom of the good old Society, will be welcomed for the pleasure and instruction it brings and for the style and tone, in which it imparts them.

Surely to the people of Georgia, to the friends of Georgia, everywhere, to students of history, to writers of history, to all who are attracted to the intellectual and spiritual side of life, not in vain will be the appeal to sustain an institution conceived in public spirit and living without taint of selfishness, or commercialism, or narrow partisanship or wearisome politics—a little sunlit island in the more or less dreary sea of our material life—*Scilicet* GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.